

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23724 01 OF 02 081241Z

47 42

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EA-07 ISO-00 MC-02 CAB-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 SS-14 PM-03 SP-02 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 L-02

NSC-07 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /071 W
----- 038382

R 081224Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3016

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

FAA BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 23724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: FRANCO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 23524 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SECSTATE OF TRANSPORT CAVAILLE TELLS
US SOVIETS HAVE HINTED VAGUELY AT POSSIBLE
COOPERATION WITH FRENCH IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT CONSTRUC-
TION. SOVIETS STILL BADLY WANT FRENCH CERTIFICATION
OF YAK-40 ESPECIALLY FOR SALES TO AFRICA AND MAY
ALSO BE INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATION OF KAMOV
LIGHT HELICOPTER. NO AGREEMENT YET WITH SOVIETS
ON CONCORDE LANDING RIGHTS ON PARIS-TOKYO ROUTE.
END SUMMARY

2. REFTTEL REPORTED DESIRE OF STATE SECRETARY
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PAGE 02 PARIS 23724 01 OF 02 081241Z

OF TRANSPORT CAVAILLE, DURING COURTESY CALL PAID

ON HIM OCT. 3 BY DCM AND RCAA, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COOPERATION IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION, BOTH SST AND SUBSONIC, DURING HIS VISIT TO US NEXT SPRING AT DOT SECRETARY BRINEGAR'S INVITATION. WHILE OUTLINING HIS VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT CAVAILLE MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT GOF HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO SOME OVERTURES "FROM THE OTHER SIDE." WHEN ASKED TO EXPAND ON THIS POINT, CAVAILLE SAID THAT WHILE NO FORMAL APPROACH HAD BEEN MADE SOVIETS HAD INFORMALLY DROPPED THE HINT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TWO WEEKS AGO AND CONVERSATION IN PARIS AT BEGINNING OF LAST WEEK WITH SOVIET MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.

3. WHILE SOVIET REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE COOPERATION IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION REMAINED VAGUE, SOVIETS WERE EXPLICIT IN LETTING FRENCH KNOW THAT THEY STILL BADLY WANTED FRENCH CERTIFICATION OF YAK-40. SOVIETS HAD EXPLAINED THAT THEY WERE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN SALES OF YAK-40 TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND CONSIDERED FRENCH CERTIFICATION ESSENTIAL FOR THAT PURPOSE. CAVAILLE SAID THAT SOVIETS WERE ALSO ANXIOUS TO SELL ONE OF THEIR KAMOV LIGHT HELICOPTERS IN AFRICA AND HAD RECENTLY SHIPPED A COUPLE OF MODELS TO FRANCE AS A STEP TOWARD OBTAINING FRENCH CERTIFICATION. (COMMENT: CAVAILLE IMPLIED THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD BEEN APPROACHED ALSO ON THE HELICOPTER CERTIFICATION. CERTIFICATION STAFF AT SGAC, HOWEVER, HAS RECEIVED ONLY INQUIRY FROM FRENCH IMPORTER INTO POSSIBILITIES OF KAMOV HELICOPTER CERTIFICATION AND SGAC IS AWARE OF NO FORMAL APPLICATION THIS SUBJECT HAVING YET BEEN ADDRESSED TO GOF BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES.)

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PAGE 01 PARIS 23724 02 OF 02 081251Z

47 42

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COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 23724

4. CAVAILLE INTIMATED THAT GOF WAS NO MORE DISPOSED NOW THAN IN THE PAST TO ACT FAVORABLY ON REQUESTS FOR AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATION OF SOVIET-BUILT AIRCRAFT. CERTIFICATION OF YAK-40 CONTINUED TO ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES BECAUSE FRENCH EXPERTS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO COMMENCE CERTIFICATION PROCESS DURING DEVELOPMENT PHASE OF THE AIRCRAFT. MOREOVER, SOVIETS WERE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT LETTING FRENCH VISIT ANY OF THEIR FACTORIES AND SOUGHT COUNTER ANY SUCH REQUESTS BY DELUGING FRENCH WITH PRINTED DATA THAT WAS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR ON-THE-SPOT CHECK OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES AND PROCEDURES.

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PAGE 02 PARIS 23724 02 OF 02 081251Z

5. CAVAILLE SAID THAT FRENCH ON THEIR SIDE WERE SEEKING LANDING RIGHTS FROM SOVIETS TO PERMIT REFUELING OF CONCORDE FOR PARIS-TOKYO SERVICE BUT NO AGREEMENT HAD YET BEEN REACHED. (COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US THAT THESE TALKS IN WHICH BRITISH ARE ALSO INVOLVED HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN "ROUTINE" FASHION FOR SOME TIME.)
IRWIN

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